

Full details have been submitted to the East African Rarities Committee, which has accepted both records.

We wish to thank Peter Robinson for checking the skins of both species in the British Museum.

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*Scopus* 18: 122–123, December 1994

Received 14 June 1994

### **A roost of Swallow-tailed Kites *Chelictinia riocourii* and Lesser Kestrels *Falco naumanni* near Naro Moru, Kenya**

The D448 road which leads from Naro Moru on the western slopes of Mt Kenya to join the B5 Nyeri to Nyahururu road, and which borders the southern edge of Solio Game Park, is excellent for birds of prey at the appropriate season, particularly harriers *Circus* spp., and Lesser and White-eyed Kestrels *Falco naumanni* and *F. rupicoloides*.

During the late afternoon of 9 March 1993, we were driving slowly along this road watching several Lesser Kestrels hunting and sitting on fences, when a flock of the same species appeared alongside the vehicle. We disembarked to count them (40 birds) and as we watched noticed several white birds, very high in the sky to the north, 'flashing' against a large black thundercloud. At first we thought they might be White-winged Black Terns *Chlidonias leucopterus* but as they drifted nearer and started to descend, it became obvious that they were Swallow-tailed Kites *Chelictinia riocourii*. The straggling line of birds continued towards us and began to drop into a clump of large trees some 300 m south of the road. To our amazement, these trees were already full of Lesser Kestrels and many Swallow-tailed Kites. A small flat-topped acacia some little way beyond the large trees was covered with kites and the whole sloping top appeared white. This was presumably a pre-roosting place as the kites eventually left to join the others in the large trees. All the birds would occasionally take flight and mill about and it was during this activity that we were able to count and estimate their numbers as they re-settled. We were satisfied that at least 250 Swallow-tailed Kites and 600 Lesser Kestrels were present.

The following day, in an attempt to be at the site before the birds arrived so that we could count them in, we arrived at 16:30 to find the small acacia already "white" with kites and others, together with Lesser Kestrels, in the larger trees. The kestrels were approaching from the north and west and between 18:15 and 19:05 we counted 400 as they crossed the road to join the roost, including a concentrated 90 birds which arrived between 18:55 and 19:00. We managed to count 148 kites as they milled around the trees and estimated that at least 250 were again present, with 600 Lesser Kestrels and three Black-shouldered Kites *E. caeruleus*. We were not able to count any birds which may have entered the roost from the south. Also in the area on 10 March were seven Eurasian Marsh Harriers *Circus aeruginosus*, three Montagu's Harriers *C. pygargus* and one White-eyed Kestrel.

It was interesting to speculate on how long the kites had been in the area; perhaps the roost was just a transitory migrant assembly. Whatever the answer, it would have been interesting to know how far the kites dispersed to feed and why they approached the roost at such a height. Three days later, on 12 and 13 March, in Meru National Park, we had seven and 15 sightings of Swallow-tailed Kites respectively; clearly there were many more in this part of Kenya than is usual. The whole experience was quite spectacular.

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*Scopus* 18: 123–124, December 1994

Received 22 October 1994

### **The Angola Swallow *Hirundo angolensis* nesting in the Impenetrable Forest, Uganda**

The Angola Swallow *Hirundo angolensis* is a common species in open areas around and within the Bwindi-Impenetrable Forest National Park, southwest Uganda. From September 1986 through August 1987 I monitored all nests of *H. angolensis* on three buildings at the Ruhizha Forest Station (1°02'S, 29°46'E) of the then Impenetrable Forest Reserve. Ruhizha is at 2300 m a.s.l. and receives an annual rainfall of about 144 cm (range 113–239 cm). The station is surrounded by montane forest but an extensive region of intensively cultivated land lies off the northern boundary about 1 km away. The climate, vegetation and fauna of this area are described by Butynski (1984).

Twenty-one nests were monitored. All nests were constructed of mud and grass plastered on to the walls of the buildings 3.5–6 m above the ground. All were located under eaves and, therefore, well protected from rain, wind and predators. The greatest distance between any two nests was about 30 m. During the nesting period, the usually rather silent adult birds became noisy, giving loud chirps and twitters. This was particularly noticeable at first light (c. 06:30).

The nests and eggs were as described by Chapin (1953), Mackworth-Præd & Grant (1960) and Keith *et al.* (1992). That is, the nests were made of mud and grass, cup-shaped, and lined with grass and feathers. The eggs were white, blotched with dark rufous/rusty brown.

The mean number of eggs in 21 clutches under incubation was 2.76. This is probably an underestimate as some eggs may have been lost prior to the start of incubation. In the nine nests monitored prior to laying and up to the start of incubation, the mean number of eggs/clutch was 2.89. All nests had two to three eggs, with three eggs being the norm. Eggs were usually laid on consecutive days and incubation began soon after the last egg was laid.

The number of nestlings hatching in 20 nests was 40. This gives a mean of 2.00 nestlings/nest. Thus, about 69 per cent of the eggs laid hatched. One nest with three